

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. However, having regard to various dimensions of terrorism, insurgency and Left Wing Extremism, the review exercise is undertaken as a continuous process to evolve better coordination between the Centre and the States. The main areas of concern relate to Pak-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, militant/insurgent activities in the North-East and Left Extremist violence in some of the States. The Centre as well as the State Governments keep initiating various remedial measures from time to time and there has been visible impact in some areas as a result of such moves. While multi-pronged approach is being followed to tackle the problems in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East, the institution of a high level Co-ordination Centre is constantly monitoring ways and means to overcome the menace of Left Wing extremism. Committee on Police Reforms, which was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri K. Padmanabhaiah is yet to submit its report.

#### Review of anti-dowry laws

1903. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the mounting number of dowry deaths which has risen by over ten times over the last 15 years;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) has initiated a review of the anti-dowry laws;

(c) if so, whether the Commission is examining that the giving of dowry be treated as an offence and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are going to amend the existing anti-dowry laws;

(e) if so, salient features thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME

**AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):** (a) As per information received from the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of dowry death reported in the country during 1989—1999 is as follows:—

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of dowry death cases reported |
|---------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.      | 1989 | 4215                              |
| 2.      | 1990 | 4836                              |
| 3.      | 1991 | 5157                              |
| 4.      | 1992 | 4962                              |
| 5.      | 1993 | 5817                              |
| 6.      | 1994 | 4935                              |
| 7.      | 1995 | 5092                              |
| 8.      | 1996 | 5513                              |
| 9.      | 1997 | 6006                              |
| 10.     | 1998 | 6975                              |
| 11.     | 1999 | 6574                              |

(b) to (f) Ministry of Human Resource Development, Deptt. of Women and Child Development is considering a proposal regarding amendment in the Dowry Prohibition Act in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Commission for Women (NCW). The National Commission for Women have informed the Deptt. of Women and Child Development that the subject was discussed in Commission's meeting held in November, 1999 when it was decided that their recommendation for amendment of Dowry Prohibition Act alongwith other related issues should be discussed/ debated in Nation-wide state Workshops. The National Commission for Women is yet to finalise its views.